To all new Graduate Diploma in Economics students:

This is a brief message to introduce myself as Programme Director, and to give you some advance information about the GDE programme.

1. You should already have received notification that the preliminary mathematics course starts on Wednesday 21 September, in Room B33 of the main college building (main entrance on Torrington Square). The schedule for this course, and the provisional timetable for the whole of the autumn term, can be found on the programme webpage: http://www.bbk.ac.uk/ems/for_students/grad_dip_economics

2. All students (except online students) should attend the first session of the preliminary maths course, even if you have not yet enrolled. I will give a brief overview of what to expect in the rest of the course, and in the programme as a whole.

3. If you have not yet accepted the offer of a place, please do so as soon as possible, so that arrangements can be made for you to enrol.

4. If you are an online student it is particularly important that you enrol as soon as possible so that you have access to online materials (including the preliminary maths course, which will be available online from Thursday 22 September)

5. If you received a conditional offer and it has not yet been made unconditional, please make sure the College is made aware of any necessary documents/information as soon as possible. Please also inform Alex Melville, the Graduate Diploma programme administrator.

6. By default, most GDE students will be made an offer of a place on the 2 year programme in the first instance. As I hope your offer letter made clear, any student who wishes to move on to the intensive 1 year programme can attend lectures for the 1 year programme in the first 5 weeks of term. You will then take the mid-term test in microeconomics and an additional online test in mathematics (primarily calculus) in Week 6 (reading week). If you get a mark of 60 or above, we will give you the chance to switch to the 1 year programme, if you still wish to do so.

7. A few of you (primarily students from overseas) have been made offers of a
place directly on to the 1 year programme. However, even this group of
students will need to take these tests, and achieve the same standard, in order
to remain on the 1 year programme.

8. An electronic version of the student handbook is attached to this email – it can
also be downloaded from the programme web pages. Some information on
dates, etc, is yet to be confirmed, but if there are any changes we will let you
know. I’d recommend you read through the whole handbook to get a feel for
what the programme will entail, but in particular please look at the section on
the Mathematics for Economists module, with particular attention to
recommended reading for those who need to work on their maths.

9. If you have queries in the meantime, the programme administrator,
(a.melville@bbk.ac.uk) if it relates to administrative issues, or email me
(s.wright@bbk.ac.uk) if it relates to academic issues.

I look forward to meeting you on 21 September!

Best wishes

Stephen Wright
Programme Director